

July 22, 2016

# City Council Newsletter



## In this issue

- [City Receives Funding for Wildfire Risk Reduction in Ridgeline Parks](#)
- [Transformation of The Plaza @ The Hult](#)
- [Eugene Engineer Highlighted in Popular Magazine](#)
- [Grant Helps Pay for Vision Zero](#)
- [Eugene Telecommunications Manager Elected Vice-Chair of Regional Fiber Consortium](#)
- [Council Links](#)



### City Receives Funding for Wildfire Risk Reduction in Ridgeline Parks

In 2015, City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division and the Eugene-Springfield Fire Department were successful at bringing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Community Assistance funding to the City, thanks in part to a long history of collaboration with BLM's Eugene District office. POS will receive funding again in 2016. In close coordination with the BLM, approximately \$200,000 will be spent on tasks related to reducing wildfire risk on City-owned parkland in Eugene.

---

The funds will be used to reduce fuel loads and providing access on City-owned land in the Ridgeline park system by removing dense thickets of invasive vegetation and overstocked trees. Dense vegetation combined with steep and inaccessible areas make this area vulnerable to wildfire and pose challenges to wildfire response. A fire at the wildland-urban interface in Eugene is a significant hazard and could cause substantial harm to homes, businesses, critical communication towers, transmission power lines, other electric utilities, and water reservoirs. POS is currently planning to implement these projects at Suzanne Arlie Park, Coryell Ridge, South Eugene Meadows, and Blanton Ridge. Work may begin as early as July 25th.



Another component of this effort is community outreach designed to provide Eugene residents with tools and resources to reduce wildfire risk around their homes and to plan for their protection in the event of a wildfire. A website, [www.eugene-or.gov/teamup4firesafety](http://www.eugene-or.gov/teamup4firesafety), is up and running to connect residents to vetted national fire prevention programs.

For more information about these POS projects, contact [Emily Steel](#), Ecologist, 541-682-4874.

[TOP](#)



## Transformation of The Plaza @ The Hult

This summer, The Plaza @ The Hult Center for the Performing Arts is becoming transformed with the addition of outdoor programming and arts experiences, along with new amenities including food carts, seating and dining spaces as well as games and activities for kids and adults. Each week offers a diverse range of programs including Kids on the Plaza on Tuesday afternoons, pARTy on the Plaza each Thursday from 5:30-6:15 p.m., and Happy Hour & Grown-Up Recess on Fridays at 4 p.m.



Additional activities energize The Plaza @ The Hult every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Features include a kids' reading nook from the Eugene Public Library and craft projects led by MECCA (Materials Exchange Center for Community Arts), as well as games such as ping pong, checkers and giant Scrabble.

The Plaza Project is a multi-year transformation of a beloved public space. This community-wide arts and events partnership seeks to transform The Plaza @ The Hult from a pass-through courtyard

(between the Hult Center and the Eugene Hilton and Conference Center) into a dynamic,

accessible and creative space for all of Eugene to enjoy. The project will create a public space that can serve as the heart of the creative community in Eugene and as a new model for community engagement and audience development in our region.

For the calendar of activities and performances, visit [hultcenter.org/plaza/](http://hultcenter.org/plaza/) or follow the Hult Center's [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) account.

[TOP](#)

---



## Eugene Engineer Highlighted in Popular Magazine

Eugene's recent LED streetlight conversion was back in the spotlight, mentioned in the popular magazine American City & County. In an article published in the June 2016 issue titled "[A Bright Idea](#)," the magazine focused on the national movement to convert traditional high-pressure sodium (HPS) to light emitting diodes (LEDs) fixtures.

The author interviewed several engineers including Patrick Cox with Eugene Public Works. Cox explained why the City decided to convert nearly 5,000 streetlights to the LED fixtures. He pointed out the 2014 feasibility study and the energy and monetary savings the conversion would produce.



For more information on the LED streetlight conversion, contact [Patrick Cox](#) at 541-682-5331.

[TOP](#)

---



## Grant Helps Pay for Vision Zero

Public Works Engineering is pleased to announce that it has secured a grant to help reach the goal of zero deaths or serious injuries on Eugene's transportation system. In July 2016, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) awarded the City \$65,000 to help in the pursuit of Vision Zero.

---



The grant will kick start the Vision Zero process. Over the coming months, City staff and community leaders will create a Vision Zero Action Plan. The grant will fund the planning process, which includes partially funding a position on the Transportation Planning Team and paying for consultant costs.

The action plan process includes the formation of a task force consisting of a diverse group of stakeholders. They're expected to meet at least seven times through the summer of 2017.

Sweden created and adopted Vision Zero in the 1990s. It's a multifaceted approach to make roads safer. Vision Zero acknowledges that traffic losses are preventable. It's a more strategic approach to transportation safety because it uses data driven research and looks at problems from a system level to prevent traffic crashes. Acting Traffic Engineer, Matt Rodrigues, is also going to Sweden this fall to present and learn more about Vision Zero.

Since passing the resolution in November, Public Works Engineering has already launched a crosswalk safety campaign and worked with ODOT to open a new shared use path alongside a busy state highway. For more on Vision Zero contact [Rob Inerfeld](#), Transportation Planning Manager, at 541-682-5343.

[TOP](#)



## Eugene Telecommunications Manager Elected Vice-Chair of Regional Fiber Consortium



Pam Berrian, Telecommunications Program Manager, Information Services Division, was recently elected Vice-Chair of the Regional Fiber Consortium, established in 1999 by agreement of the participating cities under the authority of Oregon's Statute ORS 190.003.

The Fiber Consortium manages, a large intra-state fiber asset provided to municipalities in lieu of respective public rights of way use fees that would otherwise have been owed by long-haul providers such as Level 3 and Wil-Tel. Each jurisdiction involved in the intra-state agreement is a member. The fiber asset is over 500 miles of 12 strands of high speed fiber, administratively managed under separate contract by the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG).

The fiber asset was a critical element in receiving the award of an \$8.4 M federal Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) connectivity grant, written by LCOG. That project was completed in May 2014, meeting all federal and local milestones and greatly benefiting the focus sites, including several City sites in Eugene.

A long-time member of the American Public Works Association (APWA), Pam has also been appointed as a member of the project review team for the [APWA Donald C. Stone Credentialing Center for Research](#). The purpose of the DCS Research Council is evaluating the elements of submitted Public Works projects for professional credentialing.

For more information, please contact [Kris Dalmolin](#), ISD Director, at 541-682-5075.



[TOP](#)

---

## [Links to Eugene City Council Resources](#)

### [Mayor & City Council Webpage](#)



### [Public Meetings Calendar](#)

### [Tentative Council Agenda](#)

---

**City Manager's Office**  
**City of Eugene**  
**125 E. 8th Ave, 2nd Floor**  
**Eugene, OR 97401**

**Phone: 541.682.5010 | Fax: 541.682.5414**

[City of Eugene website](#)

[Council Newsletter archive](#)



[Join us on Facebook](#)



[Follow us on Twitter](#)